

Open to ^{the} New *Shades*





Chiang Rai

The northern-most province of Thailand, Chiang Rai is situated on the Kok River basin. With an area of some 11,678 square kilometres. Mostly mountainous, it reaches the Mae Khong River to the north and shares borders with both Myanmar and Laos. The province is a cultural hub in more ways than one, home to contemporary artists, a rich cultural heritage and some of Thailand's most interesting temples, with scenic mountain landscapes, home to several hilltribes who follow interesting ways of life.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

From Amphoe In Buri of Sing Buri Province, take Highway No. 11 passing Tak Fa–Wang Thong–Phitsanulok–Uttaradit–Den Chai–Phrae–Rong Kwang. Turn left onto Highway No. 103 towards Amphoe Ngao. Take a right turn onto Highway No. 1 that leads through Phayao to Chiang Rai Province. The total distance is 785 km.

By Bus

The Transport Company Limited provides daily services of air-conditioned and regular coaches, leaving the Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Chatuchak) on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road. Tel. +66 2936 2852-66, +66 2793 8111, 1490 www.transport.co.th. Chiang Rai Bus Terminal 2 Tel. +66 5377 3989-3916

Coaches offered by private companies.

- Nakhon Chai Air Tel. 1624 www.nca.co.th
- Siam First Tour Tel. +66 2954 3601-7, +66 5370 0092, +66 5379 1227 www.siamfirst.co.th
- Cherd Chai Tour Tel. +66 2936 0199

By Train

Daily services from Hua Lamphong Railway station, Bangkok to Chiang Mai. Then catch a local bus further from Arcade Bus terminal, Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai. Tel. 1690 www.railway.co.th

By Air

There are several daily direct flights from Bangkok to Chiang Rai:

- Thai AirAsia: Tel. +66 2515 9999 www.airasia.com
- Thai Airways: Tel. +66 2356 1111 www.thaiairways.com
- Thai Smile: Tel. +66 2118 8888 www.thaismileair.com
- Nok Air: Tel. 1318, +66 2088 8955 www.nokair.com
- Bangkok Airways: Tel. 1771, +66 2270 6699 www.bangkokair.com

Getting Around

Local Transportation: The Chiang Rai Bus Terminal 1 near the Night Bazaar offers services to other districts of Chiang Rai and neighbouring provinces. Tel. +66 5371 5952.

Airport transfers are provided by the Mae Fa Luang–Chiang Rai International Airport taxi service. Taxi fares are charged per kilometre. Chiang Rai Airport Cooperative Limited from 08.00 a.m.–09.00 p.m., Tel. +66 5379 8223.

Transportation to other provinces:

The Chiang Rai Bus Terminal 2 offers bus services to Chiang Mai, Phayao, Phrae, Lampang, Mae Sot, Uttaradit, Phitsanulok, Pattaya, Rayong, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, Loei, Udon Thani and Khon Kaen. Contact the Chiang Rai Bus Terminal 2, Tel. +66 5377 3989. Song Thaeo runs between Bus Terminal 1 and 2 charged at 10 Baht



Chiang Rai



Chiang Mai

Phayao



Airport



Bus Station



Hospital

- ① Phra Tamnak Doi Tung
- ② Wat Rong Khun
- ③ Singha Park Chiang Rai
- ④ Baandam Museum 'Black House'
- ⑤ The Golden Triangle
- ⑥ Wat Rong Suea Ten or 'Blue Temple'
- ⑦ Ban Pang Ha
- ⑧ Art Bridge Chiang Rai
- ⑨ Tham Luang-Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park
- ⑩ Hong Hom Phaya



1 Phra Tamnak Doi Tung

Phra Tamnak Doi Tung was once the palace of HRH Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother. The palace architecture is a cross between traditional Lanna and a Swiss-style chalet, decorated with woodcarvings by Northern craftsmen, and surrounded by flower gardens. Twenty-minute guided tours are available. Open daily from 07.00 a.m. - 05.30 p.m. Admission: 90 Baht.

Suan Mae Fa Luang is situated in front of the palace, a temperate flower garden with petunias, begonias and roses, as well as more than 70 species of plants, perennial trees, and creepers. There is also the Sculpture of Continuity by Khun Misium Yipinsoi. The garden is open daily from 06.30 a.m. - 06.00 p.m. Admission is 90 Baht.

The Hall of Inspiration houses an exhibition that tells the life story of HRH the Princess Mother and the royal family. Open daily from 08.00 a.m. - 05.00 p.m. Admission 50 Baht.

Doi Chang Mup Stupa and Mae Fa Luang Arboretum (สถูปดอกจามปุมและสวนรุกขชาติแม่ฟ้าหลวง) The highest viewpoint of Doi Tung, the Chang Mup Stupa is a small pagoda on a large rock that looks like a prostrate elephant, surrounded by pine trees and giant banyan trees. Visitors can see rhododendrons from different continents inside the arboretum. Admission is 90 Baht.

A package price for visiting four places including Doi Tung Palace, Suan Mae Fah Luang, Hall of Inspiration, and Mae Fah Luang Arboretum is 220 Baht. For students, senior citizens, monks, and persons with disabilities: 110 Baht. Ticket hours: 6.30 am to 6.00 pm. Tourist information Centre: Tel. +66 5376 7015 - 7 ext. 2230, 2413 www.doitung.org

2 Wat Rong Khun

Wat Rong Khun, 'White Temple' is regarded as one of the most beautiful temples built this century. The masterpiece of artist Chaloechai Khositphiphat, famed for his extravagant and unique Buddhism-related paintings, Wat Rong Khun reflects the artist's grand visions of heaven and hell. The main assembly hall and adjacent area are carved in white with glass mosaics, the walls covered in detailed murals. Donations are welcome but should not exceed 10,000 Baht.

Getting there: Travel along Phahonyothin roadside, approximately 12km from the city. Open daily from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Tel. +66 5367 3579 Fax: +66 5367 3539 www.watrongkhun.org



3 Singha Park Chiang Rai



Singha Park Chiang Rai is located at Mu 1 Tambon Mae Kon, on Den Ha-Dong Mada Road, only 6 kilometers from Wat Rong Khun. Enjoy agricultural areas and a tea plantation of over 600 rai. Various fresh fruits; such as, strawberry, jujube, as well as, special formulas of tea products from the farm are on sale. The admission fee is 50 Baht/ person. A daily 50 minutes tram service between 09.30 a.m. – 05.00 p.m. (leaves every 30 minutes) is available. For more details, Tel/Fax. +66 5317 2870, +66 8 6914 2034, +66 8 1029 6635.

4 Baandam Museum

Baandam Museum, 'Black House' Located at 414, Mu 13, Tambon Nang Lae, the Black House complex comprises of more than 25 buildings of pure and applied northern architectural styles. Belonging to the Thai National Visual Artist Thawan Duchanee, the Black House exhibits folk art of local artists and an extraordinary collection of furniture crafted from buffalo horns and hides, decorated with animal hides, elephant and buffalo bones, crocodile and snake skins.

Getting there: From the city, take the Chiang Rai - Mae Chan Road for 10 km. Opens daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed at Noon to 1pm). A letter is required for group visitors in advance. Tel. +66 5377 6333, +66 8 3336 5333 www.thawan-duchanee.com.



5 Golden Triangle

The Golden Triangle is about 9 km. from the Chiang Saen old town. The area is locally called "Sop Ruak" where the Mae Khong River meets the Ruak River and also where the borders of three countries, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, meet together. Boats can be hired to view scenery around the golden triangle from Sop Ruak along the Mekong River to Chiang Saen and Chiang Khong with trips between 40 to 90 minutes. Nava Luk Luang, Tel: +66 5365 2076, Rua Hiran Nakhon: Tel. +66 5378 4021-2. Contact Nava Luk Luang,



Tel. +66 5 365 2076 Rua Hiran Nakhon, Tel. +66 5378 4021-2 Tha Siwan Pier, 400 Baht per boat (5 people), 08.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m. around the Golden Triangle to Talat Klang of Lao PDR. The journey takes 1 hour, Tel. +66 5378 4101.

6 Wat Rong Suea Ten or 'Blue Temple'

Wat Rong Suea Ten or 'Blue Temple' is located in Rong Suea Ten, a few kilometres outside Chiang Rai. Blue inside and out, the magnificent blue interior frames a large white Buddha. The paintings on the walls and ceiling are similar to those inside the White Temple (Wat Rong Khun). 'Suea Ten' literally means the dancing tiger, the village here is named after legendary tigers who used to jump over the river. Villagers started building the temple on the site of a ruined temple abandoned 80 to 100 years ago. In 1996, the villagers decided to rebuild a temple here. The admission is free. The best way to get here is to hire a local Tuk Tuk or motorbike.



7 Ban Pang Ha

The art of making handcrafted mulberry paper (or 'Sa', the Karen villagers' name for mulberry tree) is alive and well in Ban Pang Ha, a community-based tourism village in Mae Sai district. Over 600 years ago Karen hilltribes used the remarkable bark that naturally peels from the trunk of this tall broad-leaved tree to make paper without cutting down trees. The Ban Pang Ha local livelihood depends on knife-making and the village is also famous for 'Kimju' guava fruit.

It's a great place to experience the village life and

farming culture of Thailand. Jinnaluck Mulberry Saa Paper Community Enterprises is the main attraction where tourists can try make mulberry paper themselves with help from locals.

8 Art Bridge Chiang Rai

Art Bridge Chiang Rai Located right on the highway, just 6km north of Chiang Rai, Art Bridge is a private gallery where you can enjoy various works of art created by Thai and international artists. There is also a modern restaurant located on site to stop for lunch. The exhibitions change regularly, so visitors can



return time and again for a different experience. The restaurant serves an impressive array of reasonably-priced dishes, including traditional Northern-Thai curries. As the restaurant is located along a river, you also get a clear view of the surrounding rice paddies and mountains in the background.



9 Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park

This mountain is well known to locals from the old legend of the Chang Roong princess from Sibsongpanna, in Yunnan, China. According to legend, the princess fell in love with a stable boy and became pregnant. Their love was forbidden so they fled from their homeland and rested in the cave. Exhausted and hungry, the boy went in search for food and water and was found and killed by the princess's father's guards. Heartbroken, she stabbed herself to death. So, the story goes, her body became the mountain seen today, the shape of the pregnant lady on her back and her blood became the Mae Sai River.

It is within this park that in June 2018, the 'Wild Boars' football team with 12 boys and their coach became lost in the cave for two weeks, prompting a global rescue effort. After 10 days, the boys were found alive and their rescue has become a wonderful story of unity and cooperation between nations for the greater good.

10 Hong Hom Phaya

Hong Hom Phaya is a community based learning centre which offers traditional northern style Lanna 'Stomping' massage. It is located in Wat Phra That Doi Ong, not too far from the city centre. The "Pounding the nerves" (Tok-sen) Lanna-style massage is done with implements crafted from wood that has been hit by lightning and the Lanna method has transferred from generation to generation by teachers, monks and masters. Static electricity and sound waves created by the wooden mallet and the wooden chisel soothe tendons and muscles and reduce tension.





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